

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 10 were objected to. These claims have been amended responsive to the kind suggestions provided by the Examiner.

Claim 4 was rejected under §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claim 4 was amended consistent with the Examiner's understanding as to this claim.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-12 were rejected as obvious over RATAYCZAK 6,259,909 in view of ALLAHWERDI 6,928,558.

Claims 6 and 8 were rejected as obvious over RATAYCZAK in view of ALLAHWERDI and further in view of FIELDER 5,995,624.

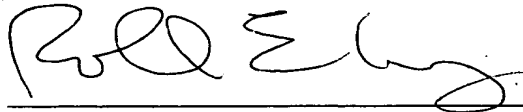
No claims were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that both rejections rely on the teachings of ALLAHWERDI. This reference has a U.S. filing date, and hence a U.S. reference date, of October 27, 2000. Note, however, that the present application is a national stage of a PCT application filed June 16, 2000. Accordingly, applicants are entitled to their PCT filing date of June 16, 2000 without doing more. Accordingly, the ALLAHWERDI patent is not prior art to the present application. Withdrawal of all of the obviousness rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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